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# BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON



**NURSING: HINTS TO PROBATIONERS ON PRACTICAL POINTS.** By Mary H. Annesly Voysey. London: Scientific Press, Ltd.

This little book calls attention to a fact which is constantly noticed by readers who compare the books written by and for nurses, in England and America. I mean the extreme diffidence of the American nurse, and the enterprising spirit of the English. It is the rarest thing to find an American nurse who dares face her critical sisters in the literary field. In England, on the contrary, nurses enter the lists with apparently no other equipment than a more or less limited knowledge of the subject on which they propose to write. The result is very often just such a book as Miss Voysey gives us—the practical matter excellent, but often expressed in English which requires to be translated to be understood. A great many localisms are used which are probably as unfamiliar in other parts of England as they are in America—but surely it is mere careless, slipshod writing on page 18, line 15, where the nurse is instructed that the bed be “covered by a blanket to prevent a chill.” The provincial mind reveals itself on page 23, where the delinquency of a sister province is announced in an interjection following “Beds for Rheumatic Cases” and before “Fracture Beds,” viz: “Bolsters are used loose in Scotland, and not rolled in the sheet. Some hospitals in Scotland do not use bolsters at all.” There are mentioned in this book, as in most of the English nursing books, those various foreign sounding articles unknown on this side of the water, “black soap,” “brown wool,” “gamgee jackets,” and many others.

**THE NURSING OF SICK CHILDREN.** By James Burnet, M.A., M.D., M. R. C. P.(Edin.); Registrar and Assistant to the Extra-Physicians, Royal Hospital for Sick Children; Senior Clinical Medicine Tutor, Extramural Wards Royal Infirmary; Physician to the Marshall Street Dispensary, Edinburgh. Author of “Manual of Children’s Diseases.” London: Scientific Press, Ltd. Price one shilling.

The reader who misleads herself by the very comprehensive title of this little book into buying it, is doomed to woful disappointment. The instructions are announced as lectures, or a lecture, given presum-

ably to probationers or pupil nurses, and the recipients of the lecture are exhorted to take down every word in a note book and carry the same in their apron pockets. They who obey the behest of their instructor do not accept any large contract, for it is hardly possible to understand why such slight matter should be printed, bound, and offered for sale.

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FREDERICK C. HOWE, in his book, "The City, the Hope of Democracy," says: "A large part of the uplift which has come to our cities in recent years is traceable to the activity of women. Through them most of the movements which relieve the burdens of the poor have been inspired. Back of the settlement, the small park, the kindergarten, the crèche, the juvenile court, the schools, and the libraries; back of the Consumers' League; of the movement for the abolition of child-labor; back of many a movement for bettering the conditions of life in home, shop and factory, is the influence of woman. To woman the city is more than an incidental problem. It touches her in a thousand ways. No one suffers more from bad government than she does, and no one is more interested in good government. Moreover, municipal administration is a housekeeping agency. That is what the Germans call it. Its activities are social and domestic. To man, the city is primarily a centre of industry. He measures it by commercial standards. He views its activities and efficiency from his office, his factory, his pecuniary interest. Woman, on the other hand, sees the city in the light of a home. The vice, the saloons, the schools, the libraries, the water, gas, and transportation questions are to her questions of the family, of the child, questions of comfort, of happiness, of safety. We should coördinate these interests, should open the ballot to her voice on these questions. Probably no single reform would mean more for the ultimate if not the immediate betterment of conditions than the adding of woman's voice and counsel to the management of city affairs."

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DR. GEORGE M. GOULD, 1722 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, will be grateful for any trustworthy information as to the methods which have been devised by the blind in overcoming their disability or in gaining a livelihood. Accounts of such lives, anecdotes, references to literature, etc., will be appreciated. Can nurses furnish any such details?